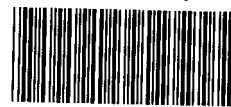


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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107



SEMS DocID

2261418

SUBJECT: PHONE CONVERSATION RE: DATE: 9/21/90
MINDEN, WV

FROM: CARRIE DEITZEL

TO: DISTRIBUTION

PHONE NOTES
JOE MEYERS - FAYETTE TRIBUNE
CARRIE DEITZEL
SEPTEMBER 21, 1990

Mr. Meyers initiated this conversation with an earlier call to Rich Kampf who referred me to him. I returned his call at approximately 10:45 am. His areas of interest were as follows:

What's the latest development on Minden ?

Response: There have been no new developments since EPA's press release of last Tuesday.

What press release ? I didn't see any press release.

Response: (Picked through press release without actually reading it.)

Oh, you mean the letter to Rockefeller ?

Response: The letter and the release are essentially the same.

Let's talk about the PCB hits. Is it true that some are new oil ?

Response: Yes

Is EPA looking into the possible sources of this new oil ?

Response: Yes

Is there going to be a criminal investigation ?

Response: It's much too soon to tell.

Can EPA do criminal investigations or does another agency do them ?

Response: EPA can do criminal investigations.

So will they ?

Response: Only if there's reason to believe one is warranted.

Well is there ?

Response: I have no idea.

You're not answering my question.

Response: I believe I have, but you're not listening.

Is EPA going to do a criminal investigation or aren't they ?

Response: If there is any evidence to suggest a criminal investigation is in order, EPA will do one. If there is no evidence to suggest a criminal investigation is in order, EPA will not do one.

You are not answering my question.

Response: I've answered your question several times. You want information that simply is not available; your question is premature.

I'm simply trying to get this story straight. There's been a lot of confusion so far. -- Have the people who are looking into this matter considered that maybe someone in Minden deliberately put that oil there ?

Response: I don't know what they may or may not have considered. I am not privy to their moment-to-moment considerations.

If I call back later, can I get this information ?

Response: I'm sure if EPA decides to proceed with a criminal investigation, a press release will be prepared.

Are you familiar with EPA's April agreement with Rockefeller to sample over a three-mile radius ? Is EPA still going to do that ?

Response: I believe there was much confusion about that issue, also. It's my understanding that EPA agreed to sample the Shaffer property itself and six offsite areas pointed out by local residents.

Those offsite areas only extend one mile from the site. Does EPA intend to do any additional investigating within the 3-mile radius ?

Response: To my knowledge, the six offsite areas are the areas EPA has committed to investigate at this time.

I understand the data for those areas is in. What did it show ?

Response: To my knowledge only some preliminary data is in and it has not been validated as yet.

What did it show ?

Response: Nothing yet. It's not validated. I don't expect to have useful information for the offsite areas until -- probably -- November.

Will there be additional sampling ? What will EPA do next ?

Response: That would depend on the data that comes in.

Well is there going to be a removal action ?

Response: There is an action memo for the Shaffer property that is apparently going to be implemented, but that is a removal program activity. The offsite areas are being addressed by the pre-remedial section.

So the removal section is onsite and the pre-remedial section is offsite ?

Response: Essentially. Both groups have looked at the interior of the Shaffer building.

Oh, EPA's been in the building ?

Response: Yes

How much soil will be removed from the site ? How many tons ?

Response: I don't know. I can look into it for you. It is not a large volume; it is a limited removal.

How many of the PCB hits were new ?

Response: I don't recall. I believe the highest hit was new.

Were there really hits or is EPA just going to remove some soils to get people off their backs ?

Response: EPA doesn't just "do" removals; there is data to support the work planned.

Well, there's a lot of speculation that EPA is just going to dig up some dirt because of all the complaints that nothing is being done.

Response: EPA does not perform unwarranted actions.

What about CDC's health study ? I understand it's a two part study. Is it on schedule ?

Response: I haven't been in touch with CDC regarding this site. I don't know anything about their health study. I can look into it and call you back.

So there is a CDC health study ?

Response: You just said there was. I told you I know nothing about it. The only health study I know about is the one being performed by the citizens' group with state grant money.

Do you know how I can get in touch with Don Jo ?

Response: He's with ATSDR in Atlanta. I don't have his number. (Spent some time trying to find it, w/o luck)

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THIS IS THE GIST OF OUR CONVERSATION. IT IS NOT VERBATIM AND IT IS ABBREVIATED. THOSE PORTIONS OMITTED WERE REPETITIONS OF

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QUESTIONS ALREADY NOTED. MR. MEYERS METHOD IS TO REPEAT AND REPEAT, W/W-O REPHRASING, AND ACCUSE YOU OF BEING EVASIVE. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, EVERYTHING OF SUBSTANCE THAT WAS SAID IS INCLUDED ABOVE.

cc: H. Yates
R. Kampf
G. Crystal
B. Mykijewycz
Z. Maldonado